

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Plumbing licensure

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### Overview

Under current law master and journeyman plumbers working in cities with 5,000 or more residents must be licensed by the commissioner of health. Plumbers in cities with fewer than 5,000 residents and in towns may practice without being licensed. This bill requires all plumbers to be licensed by the commissioner of health, and establishes a new category of licensure for plumbers working in cities with fewer than 5,000 residents or in towns. The bill also establishes fees for plumber licensure and related activities, requires inspections of all new plumbing installations, and directs the commissioner to adopt rules regarding suspending, revoking, and refusing to grant or renew licenses and registrations.

### Section

- 1 **License, permit, and survey fees.** Amends § 144.122. Amends a section authorizing the commissioner to establish fees for various licenses and certificates issued by the commissioner. A new paragraph (b) requires the commissioner to adopt reasonable rules to establish criteria for suspending, revoking, and refusing to grant or renew licenses and registrations.  
A new paragraph (c) authorizes the commissioner to suspend, revoke, or refuse to grant or renew licenses and registrations according to the criteria established according to paragraph (b).  
A new paragraph (h) establishes fees for plumbing examinations, licensure, inspections, and plan review.
- 2 **Restricted plumbing contractor.** Adds subd. 9a to § 326.01. Defines restricted plumbing contractor in a chapter on occupations regulated by the state. (Section 7 establishes a restricted plumbing contractor license as a new type of plumbing license.)
- 3 **Rules.** Amends § 326.37, subd. 1. Requires, rather than permits, the commissioner of health to adopt rules establishing minimum standards to apply to all new plumbing installations.
- 4 **Inspection.** Adds subd. 1a to § 326.37. Requires the commissioner to inspect all new plumbing installations. Requires the inspection program to be fully implemented by July 1, 2004.

Specifies that these inspection requirements do not apply if a political subdivision already requires similar plumbing inspections.

5 **Local regulations.** Amends § 326.38. Prohibits towns of more than 5,000 residents and cities with a system of waterworks or sewage from requiring licensure of people who perform building sewer or water service installation, if the people have completed pipe laying training as required by the commissioner of health.

6 **Master, journeyman, and restricted plumbing contractors; plumbing on one's own premises; rules for examination.** Amends § 326.40, subd. 1. Current law makes master and journeyman plumbing licensure mandatory only in cities with 5,000 or more residents and with a system of waterworks or sewage. In cities with under 5,000 residents and towns, a person may work as a plumber without being licensed. This subdivision requires licensure to work as a master or journeyman plumber or restricted plumbing contractor. However, a person need not be licensed if the person is performing building sewer or water service installation and has completed pipe laying training.

7 **Restricted plumbing contractor license.** Adds § 326.402. Establishes specifications for the licensure of restricted plumbing contractors.

**Subd. 1. Licensure.** Requires the commissioner to grant a restricted plumbing contractor license to any person who applies and provides evidence of having at least two years of practical plumbing experience.

**Subd. 2. Use of license.** Allows restricted plumbing contractors to work only in cities and towns with fewer than 5,000 residents.

**Subd. 3. Application period.** Requires applications for this license to be submitted to the commissioner before January 1, 2003.

**Subd. 4. Use period for restricted plumbing contractor license.** Specifies that this license does not expire and stays in effect for as long as the license holder engages in plumbing.

**Subd. 5. Prohibition of transference.** Prohibits restricted plumbing contractor licenses from being transferred or sold.

**Subd. 6. Restricted plumbing contractor license renewal.** Directs the commissioner to adopt rules regarding license renewal.

8 **Inspectors.** Adds § 326.451. Directs the commissioner to adopt rules regarding the certification of plumbing inspectors, including rules on certification periods, examinations and fees, certification fees, certification renewals, suspending or revoking certifications, and refusing to grant or renew certifications. Specifies that the commissioner must suspend, revoke, or refuse to grant or renew inspector certifications in compliance with rules adopted on those topics.

9 **Revisor's instruction.** Directs the Revisor of Statutes to modify cross-references in other statutes from a section being repealed to a section being created in this bill.

10 **Repealer.** Repeals section 326.45 (this section limits the application of statutes requiring licensure to work in plumbing to cities with 5,000 or more residents).